

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON SEASON BEGINS

Norton Sound Subdistricts 4, 5, and 6 will open to commercial salmon fishing on Tuesday, July 3. Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Subdistricts will open to commercial salmon fishing for one 12-hour period from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight Tuesday, July 3. . In Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, commercial salmon fishing will be permitted for one 48-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 3 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 5. Permit holders in Subdistricts 4-6 will be limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length and mesh size is restricted to 4 ½ inches or less.

Salmon runs to Norton Sound are showing later than average run timing, presumably due to the large amount of ice in Norton Sound this winter. However, pink and chum salmon are showing up in subsistence nets in estuaries and nearshore areas in Norton Sound and Port Clarence and small numbers have been observed at assessment projects.

These index openings will provide opportunity to gauge early run strength of pink salmon runs to eastern Norton Sound and utilize projected commercial harvest surpluses of pink salmon. Chinook salmon incidentally harvested during these openings will not be purchased by the buyer and must be retained for subsistence purposes. Chinook salmon incidental harvests must also be recorded in the personal use section of the fish ticket at the time of delivery.

Commercial pink salmon catches and incidental Chinook salmon harvests from these openings will be evaluated to determine the timing and extent of subsequent commercial periods.